



APHIS

Plant Protection and Quarantine

Pest Detection and Management Programs

Weekly Notice, June 23, 2003

This "Weekly Notice" is prepared by the Pest Detection and Management Programs (PDMP) to communicate recent important events. These notices and other more detailed program information can be found at:

<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/ep/>

Emergency Programs

Asian longhorned beetle - The media event with the New Jersey Department of Agriculture, Secretary Charles Kuperus, Commissioner Brad Campbell, and New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection is scheduled for July 2, in Jersey City to highlight the Asian longhorned beetle (ALB) program, the restoration activities, and to alert the public of ALB adult emergence.

In Illinois ALB treatments were completed on June 14, 2003. Finalization of records are under way to tabulate total trees treated in all locations.

ALB treatments began in Manhattan on June 19, 2003, in Central Park. The Director of Central Forestry, City of NY, Parks and Recreation was interviewed this week by NY1 regarding the ALB program, specifically the recently detected Forest Park infestation in Queens.

Emerald ash borer - Project officials in Ohio completed plans to conduct a survey in an area covering 20 counties. Lucas County, site of the original Emerald ash borer infestation, will be resurveyed. Ohio has already removed approximately 8,000 ash trees after their first round of survey activity.

Contact: Mike Stefan (301) 734-4387

Michael.B.Stefan@USDA.GOV

Domestic Programs

Ralstonia - Two meetings dealing with *Ralstonia solanacearum* race 3 biovar 2 were held at PPQ headquarters in Riverdale, MD last week. The first was a program review to look at the 2003 detection and control program in geraniums and the second meeting was to gather information on the state of knowledge for its potential detection and control in solanaceous crops

in the U.S. The program review was conducted with reports and case studies from various program managers, CPHST scientists, State Plant Health Directors, and PPQ Officers, with panel discussions and participation from IS, CPHST, CSREES, the National Plant Board, scientists from states and university diagnostic centers, and geranium industry representatives. All benefited from input and presentations given by distinguished scientists John Elphinstone of the United Kingdom Central Science Laboratory, Jap Janse of the Netherlands Plant Protection Service, Caitilyn Allen from the University of Wisconsin, Tim Momol of the University of Florida, and Ing Ming Lee, ARS molecular scientist from Beltsville, MD. We were also fortunate in the second meeting to have several state seed potato certification scientists and a representative from the vegetable industry. Between meetings there was a tour of the PPQ-CPHST National Plant Germplasm and Biotechnology Laboratory in Beltsville where samples from the program were processed for molecular confirmation to the race and biovar level. Participants felt the meetings were useful and much new information was gained for future PPQ planning efforts.

Contact: Matt Royer (301) 734-8247

Matthew.H.Royer@USDA.GOV

Environmental Monitoring - A meeting and training session was held in Lubbock, Texas with Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation management, the Foundation's state environmental monitoring specialist, and zone environmental monitoring specialists. The training focused on the investigation of complaints against the program and how to take the most appropriate samples for various situations. The roles that APHIS EM and the Foundation have in each others work were clarified, and actions were agreed upon to make environmental monitoring more efficient and effective in Texas. All agreed that the session was successful and useful, and future training sessions for zones outside of the Lubbock area were discussed, perhaps for later this year

Contact: Ron Berger (301) 734-5105

Ronald.G.Berger@USDA.GOV



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Sudden oak death - The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) announced on June 13, 2003, the detection of a Rhododendron plant in a British Columbia nursery confirmed infected with *Phytophthora ramorum*. The plant and all the plants in the growing block were destroyed by double bagging and deep burial (2m). CFIA has inspected and sampled all host plant genera within ¼ mile of the nursery. Further, they are following up on all host material that the facility both shipped and received. CFIA sent us a list of nurseries, plants, amounts and dates, which was forwarded to the State Plant Health Directors in Washington and Oregon.

Contact: Jonathan Jones (301) 734-5038

Jonathan.M.Jones@USDA.GOV

Tropical Soda Apple - An organizational meeting for the Tropical Soda Apple (TSA) Regional Task Force was held on June 10, 2003 in Tifton, GA. Representatives from PPQ, VS, State Departments of Agriculture, the Cattle Industry and other interested stakeholders were in attendance. This meeting was held to transition from the original Florida TSA Taskforce to a regional structure. Richard Gaskalla (Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Affairs), current Taskforce chair, chaired the meeting, and was elected as first president of the reorganized Taskforce. Accomplishments included identification of research needs, discussion of a regional TSA Web site, regulatory and health issues on holding of cattle, and election of officers (Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary). Four Sub-Committee were formed:

Operations, Research, Regulatory and Information/Education; and volunteers signed up for participation. Sub-Committee Chairs and Co-Chairs were agreed upon by consensus. Much discussion took place on each of these subject areas. This included further discussion of the draft MOU developed at the regional meeting sponsored by PPQ in April, but a final MOU was not agreed upon at this time. Suggestions for changes to the MOU were referred to the Regulatory Subcommittee, since The Southern Association of State Departments of Agriculture at their recent meeting has apparently also suggested some changes to the draft, and have additionally developed a resolution on TSA regulation. The TSA Taskforce tentatively set Tuesday July 22 in Dothan, Alabama for the next meeting.

Subcommittee meetings are to be held before that meeting. [Source: Art Miller & Al Tasker.](#)

PPQ is working with the Georgia Department of Agriculture to return a 15,000 lb shipment of Vetch seed from Florida that is contaminated with Tropical Soda Apple seed. This is the second seed shipment in a month arriving from Florida to be found infested with TSA. [Source: Carlos Martinez](#)

Giant Hogweed - Plans continue for treatment of a Giant Hogweed infested site in Washington, D. C. APHIS Environmental Services completed the required Categorical Exclusion documentation for the planned treatment. The first treatment scheduled for June 6 was postponed because of concerns raised by U.S. State Department about non-target plant species. A meeting is planned with State Department officials within the next week to resolve any issues that exist. The Maryland Department of Agriculture is cooperating with APHIS and will conduct the actual treatment. [Source: Gary Clement \(Eastern Regional Hogweed Program Coordinator\)](#)

Giant Hogweed was confirmed to be present in the northern panhandle of West Virginia in Hancock County. Contacts are being made with the WV Department of Agriculture to determine control strategies. [Sources: Joe Messineo & Gary Clement](#)

Terrestrial Plant Invasions in the Temperate South was held June 4 – 5, 2003, in Greenville, South Carolina with about 210 attendees. The workshop was sponsored by Clemson Extension and USDA Forest Service with APHIS among the co-sponsors. Art Miller of PPQ AERO moderated one session. He and PPQs Mary Douglass took part in an organizational meeting of the SC Exotic Pest Plant Council following the workshop. [Source: Art Miller](#)

Contact: Al Tasker (301) 734-5708

Alan.V.Tasker@USDA.GOV

Soybean Rust - The project proposal dealing with “**Weather-Based Assessment of Soybean Rust Threat to North America**” was revised to address concerns by



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reviewers: changes include addressing inoculum potential of *Phakopsora pachyrhizi*, the availability of other hosts in absence of the soybean crop in regions where SBR is causing economic losses; spore liberation from the soybean canopy; spore viability while airborne; and additional resources (epidemiologists) were added to the team. The revised proposal was submitted to Dr. Gordon Gordh.

Preparation of the PRA document is on going with concentrated efforts to collect evidence that may support or diminish spore viability in soybean grains, seeds or soybean meal.

A slide set of more than 100 slides covering the SBR May 2003 fact finding mission to Brazil is in preparation. A CD will soon be made available for those who are interested to use it.

Carl Castleton from Brazil reported that “The Brazilian Ministry is still working to compile their annual report about geographic distribution and reported loss attributed to SBR during the 2002 – 2003 soybean growing season”. This report will be available in the near future. (Source: Hossein El-Nashaar).

Japanese Beetle - Daniel Parry of LPA was provided with more updates to include in the new edition of JB Homeowner's Handbook. Mr. Parry has incorporated the changes and the new draft is under review for its finalization.

Plans are being made to visit JB regulated airports during June and July. Art Miller and/or Philip Bell (Eastern Region's JB Program Managers) and Roeland Elliston (Western Region's Program Manager) will be joining on these visits.

Contact: Anwar Rizvi (301) 734-4313

Anwar.R.Rizvi@USDA.GOV